

An aerial photograph showing a suburban town with numerous houses and green fields. In the foreground, there is a dense forest of trees. In the background, rolling hills and mountains are visible under a clear sky.

# Mt Iron Scenic Reserve

Since it was opened to climbing by the Department of Conservation in 2001, Mt Iron has become an easy-access local climbing scene. These cliffs offer good atmosphere and a quick pump for the after work crowd, or a full pump for climbers wishing to push their limits. The crags are within walking distance of town and stay mostly dry in the rain.

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📷 Kristen Foley saunters above suburbia on *The Bastard from Gunn Road* (24), Iron Curtain. ROUTE 5, PAGE 35. JOHN PALMER



# MT IRON SCENIC RESERVE CRAGS

**Access:** The crags are reached from the Wanaka–Mt Iron–Albert Town walking track. Locate the DoC access gate on the east side of the Mt Iron Scenic Reserve and west of the residential neighbourhood on Old Racecourse Road, off Aubrey Road nearest State Highway 6. Please refrain from screaming, ranting or yelling profanities: there are suburban houses just below the cliffs.

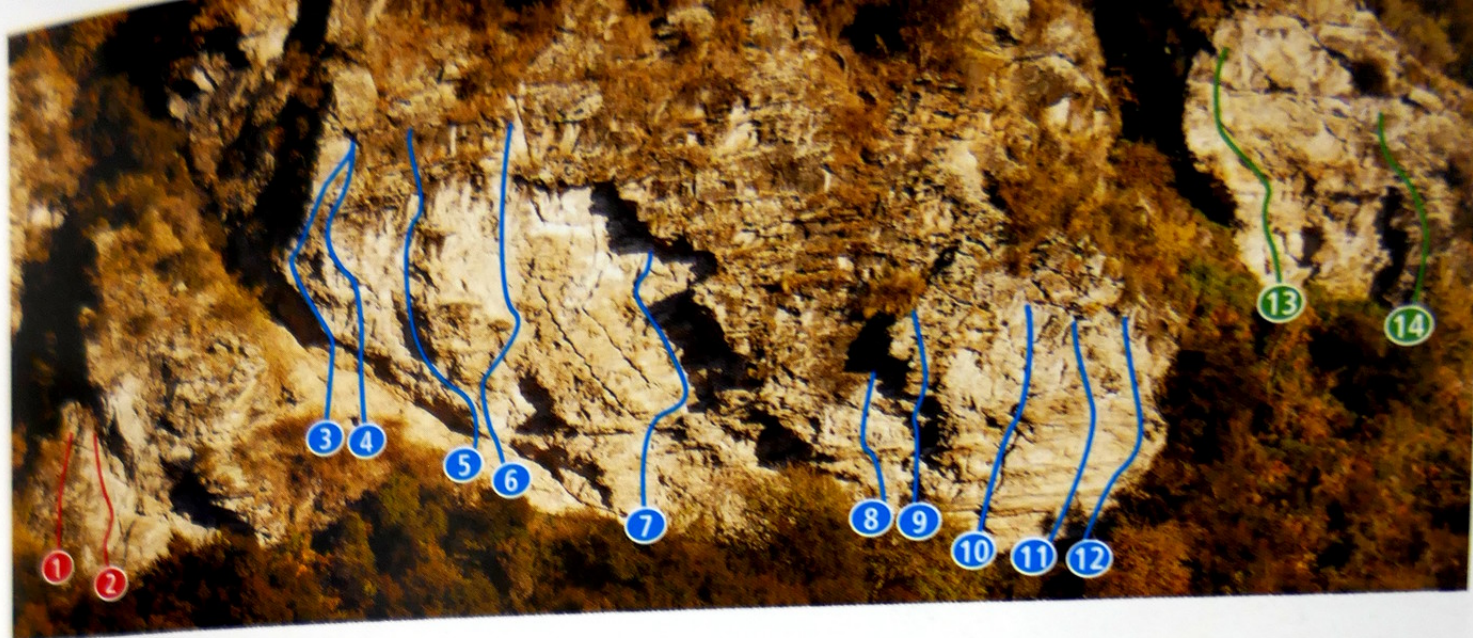


- 1 Next Best Thing
- 2 Iron Curtain

- 3 Middle Curtain
- 4 Iron Side







## NEXT BEST THING

A well-featured crag with steep routes and a good selection of grades to help build on your power endurance. The cliff is by nature gritty and a bit crumbly (helmet recommended). Some routes are possible in light rain.

**Approach Time:** 5 min

**Access:** From the access gate, walk north along the fence line for about 50m and find the cairn marking the track to your left.

- 1 Rubber Monkey 1** 10m 20  
5 Steep, steep and steeper with big holds and excellent roof moves and fixed draws.  
 Russell Braddock
- 2 Rubber Monkey 2** 10m 20  
5 Slab with some tricky route finding.  
 Russell Braddock, 2005
- 3 Three Little Pigs** 15m 23  
4 Short, steep and pumpy, take care with the belay.  
 Greg Johnston, 2005
- 4 Brass Monkey** 15m 23  
5 Trend up and left on the seam feature.  
 Greg Johnston, 2005
- 5 Stool Pigeon** 15m 23 ★  
5 Shallow groove with good grips and interesting features. Greg Johnston, 2005
- 6 Toe the Line** 20m 19 ★  
4 Steep moves up and right, then find your way through various bulges.  
 Greg Johnston, 2005

- 7 Pump Iron** 20m 21  
6 Good for a night at the gym, tough start then eases off to zigzag finish.  
 Greg Johnston, 2008
- 8 Badgers Will Rule the World** 15m 22  
5 Nice start features but a messy belay due to bird droppings at the anchor.  
 Rich Tribe, 2007
- 9 Spiral Staircase** 20m 18 ★  
7 Up the groove, then traverse right above the roof.  
 Greg Johnston, 2007
- 10 Chink in the Armour** 15m 21 ★  
5 Steep bolted crack with some staunch moves.  
 Greg Johnston, 2005
- 11 Mind Bender** 15m 25 ★  
5 Technical start with a committing dynamic move.  
 Greg Johnston, 2005
- 12 Crossroads** 15m 22 ★  
4 Up the right edge, a bit of power and a heel hook required.  
 Greg Johnston, 2005
- 13 Hydrophobia** 20m 20  
5 Wandering route after awkward mantle start.  
 Tony Donaldson, Rich Harthem, 2005
- 14 No More 'Brownes Cows'** 10m 12  
4 Short slab route with big holds.  
 Tony Donaldson, 2005





## IRONSIDE

A popular crag, with a concentration of quality routes on steep slabs and a few overhangs. A good warm-up crag for what lies ahead. Generally, the rock quality is good with just a few crumbly sections. Some routes are affected seasonally with bird droppings.

**Approach Time:** 5–10 min

**Access:** From the access gate, walk north along the fence line for about 200m until you reach the crag access track just a few metres from the cliff.

- |           |  |                  |
|-----------|--|------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Urban Hang</b>  | <b>15m 21</b>    |
| 5         | Maybe you shouldn't have had that second latté at the cafe. Curving line to below overhang.<br>Dave Shotwell, Murray Ball  |                  |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>The Prickly Lawyer</b>  | <b>20m 20</b>    |
| 5         | Trend up and right.<br>Guy Cotter, 2003  |                  |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>A Sharp Prick</b>   | <b>20m 23 ★</b>  |
| 5         | Good reaches through the bulges.<br>Ed Nepia, 2004   |                  |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Bush Lawyer</b>   | <b>20m 22 ★★</b> |
| 5         | Up the wall on slopy crimps then a groove.<br>Davie Robinson   |                  |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Super Sonic</b>   | <b>20m 22 ★★</b> |
| 6         | Up the wall on slopy crimps then roof moves to join <i>Bush Lawyer</i> .<br>Ed Nepia   |                  |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Sonic</b>   | <b>20m 20 ★</b>  |
| 7         | Trend up and left through bulging crack system with roofs. Ed Nepia<br><i>A traverse called Iron Age (21/22) leaves Sonic at the third bolt and traverses a diagonal seam left to the Urban Hang anchor. Murray Ball and Dave Shotwell, 2014</i> |                  |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Easily the Best Route on the Crag</b>   | <b>20m 23 ★</b>  |
| 6         | Cleaned by Ed Nepia, then abandoned in favour of Aussie adventures. Hugh Barnard   |                  |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>The Free Mantle Extended Remix</b>  | <b>20m 24 ★</b>  |
| 8         | Up steep jugs to a hard mantle, then up and up again.<br>Rachel Ryan, Ed Nepia   |                  |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Irony</b>   | <b>15m 25 ★</b>  |
| 5         | Bouldery moves with a few twists and turns along the way. Greg Johnston, 2005  |                  |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Steelworks</b>  | <b>15m 23 ★</b>  |
| 5         | Now without the huge glued on jug.<br>Bruce Dowrick  |                  |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Iron Maiden</b>   | <b>15m 22 ★</b>  |
| 7         | Up steep broken rock and a shallow groove.<br>Guy Cotter   |                  |
| <b>12</b> | <b>Out There on the Edge</b>   | <b>15m 20 ★</b>  |
| 5         | A steep introduction, extended by Greg Johnston after a huge hold came off. Bryan Moore, 2001  |                  |
| <b>13</b> | <b>End Game</b>  | <b>14m 20 ★</b>  |
| 5         | Time for another latté.<br>Murray Ball, Dave Shotwell  |                  |





## MIDDLE CURTAIN

This crag has a good selection of routes, from slabs to wildly overhanging. The rock quality is good, but the cliff is by nature gritty and crumbly in places, with the potential for some big bits to be pulled off. Helmets are recommended.

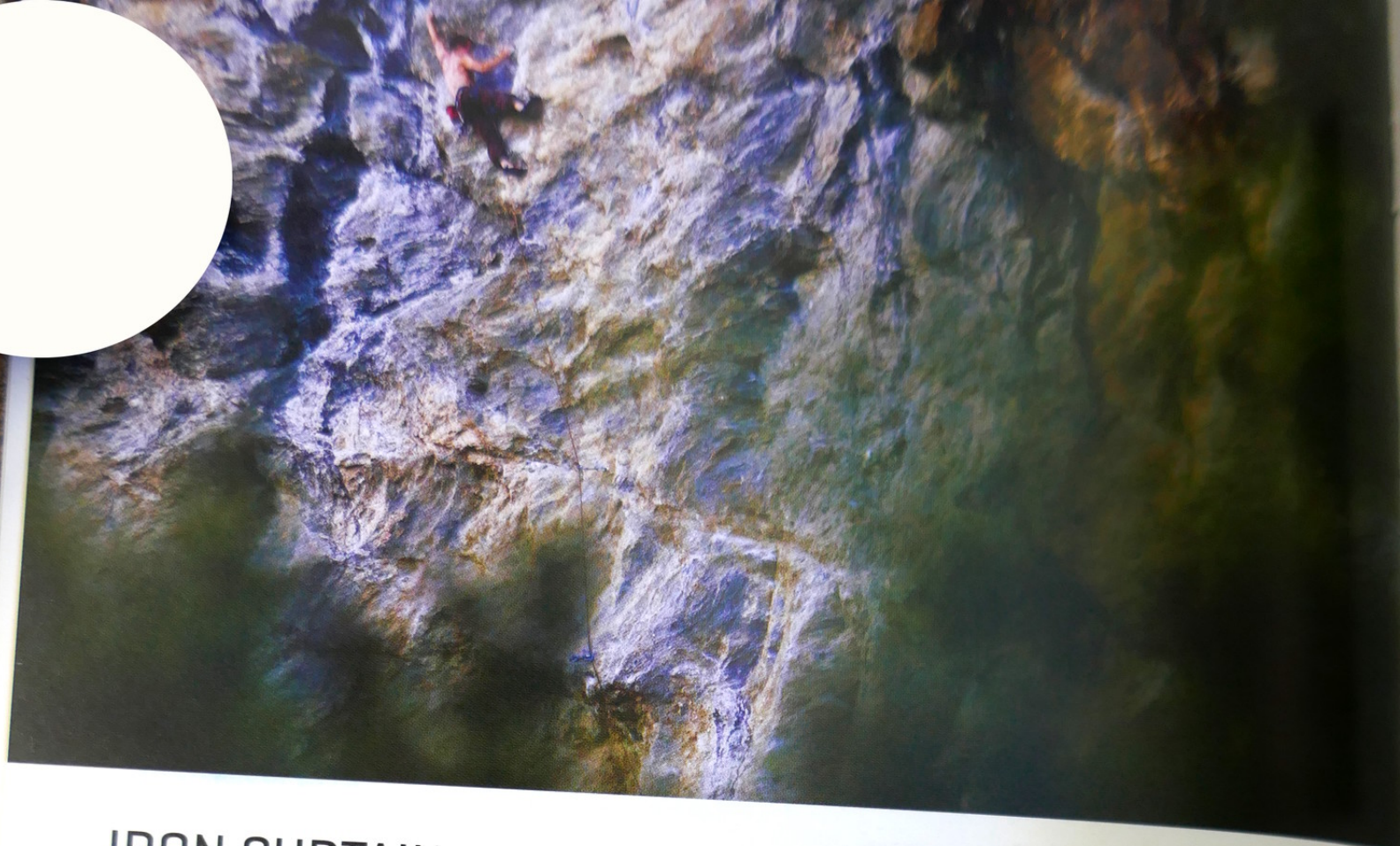
**Approach Time:** 10 min

**Access:** From the access gate, walk north along the fence line for about 200m, until you reach the crag entrance for Ironside. Then walk uphill about 50m.

- 1 Russ Boy** 20m 20  
 7 Broken face climbing.  
 Russell Braddock
- 2 Pania of the Reef** 20m 21 ★  
 7 Technical climbing over the bulge and through the scoop left of arête. Jerry Murray-Orr, 2002
- 3 Sidewinder** 15m 19  
 3 Angle up and right with delicate moves.  
 Rich Harthem, 2005
- 4 Snooze You Loose** 15m 23  
 4 Long reaches end with bigger holds on superb rock.

- 5 Dablam** 20m 24 ★  
 7 Keep trending up and right with some airy moves on steep rock.  
 Jon Sedon, 2005
- 6 Mine, Mine, Mine** 20m 25 ★  
 7 A faint prow through some wicked, steep country.  
 Bruce Dowrick, 2007
- 7 AP32** 20m 22 ★  
 8 Steep, steep and steeper with big holds and excellent roof moves and fixed draws.  
 Bruce Dowrick, 2007
- 8 Hoover** 15m 20  
 5 Long reaches up and right over some nice features. A short person's problem.  
 Guy Cotter
- 9 Manoeuvre** 5m 25 ★  
 5 Overhanging crack feature extending above *Hoover*.  
 Greg Johnston, 2005
- 10 Pick Pocket** 15m 28 ★  
 8 Powerful face and pocket moves.  
 Equipper: Greg Johnston. FA: Jon Sedon, 2006





## IRON CURTAIN

This crag has wild exposure and an exciting atmosphere. It is a great cliff for climbers wishing to push their limits. The rock is mostly good quality with nice texture, but the veneer is sometimes crumbly in places. Many of the routes are climbable when it is raining.

**Approach Time:** 15 min

**Access:** Walk north along the fence line for about 200m until you reach the crag entrance for Ironside, then walk uphill about 150m.

📷 Unknown climber on *The Good Bastard* (27), Iron Curtain.

JOHN PALMER

### 1 Waking up the Missus

7 🧗 Steep climbing on good grips.  
Mark Sedon

20m 20 +

### 2 The Bastard From Lagoon Ave

10 🧗 Cleaned and bolted by Dave Vass, then climbed all too easily.

25m 25 \*

Eq upper: Dave Vass. FA: Lionel Clay

### 3 Atomic #26

7 🧗 Veer left from *The Bastard from Lagoon Ave* at the second bolt and climb bulge on some friendly grips.

30m 27 \*

Jon Sedon, 2014

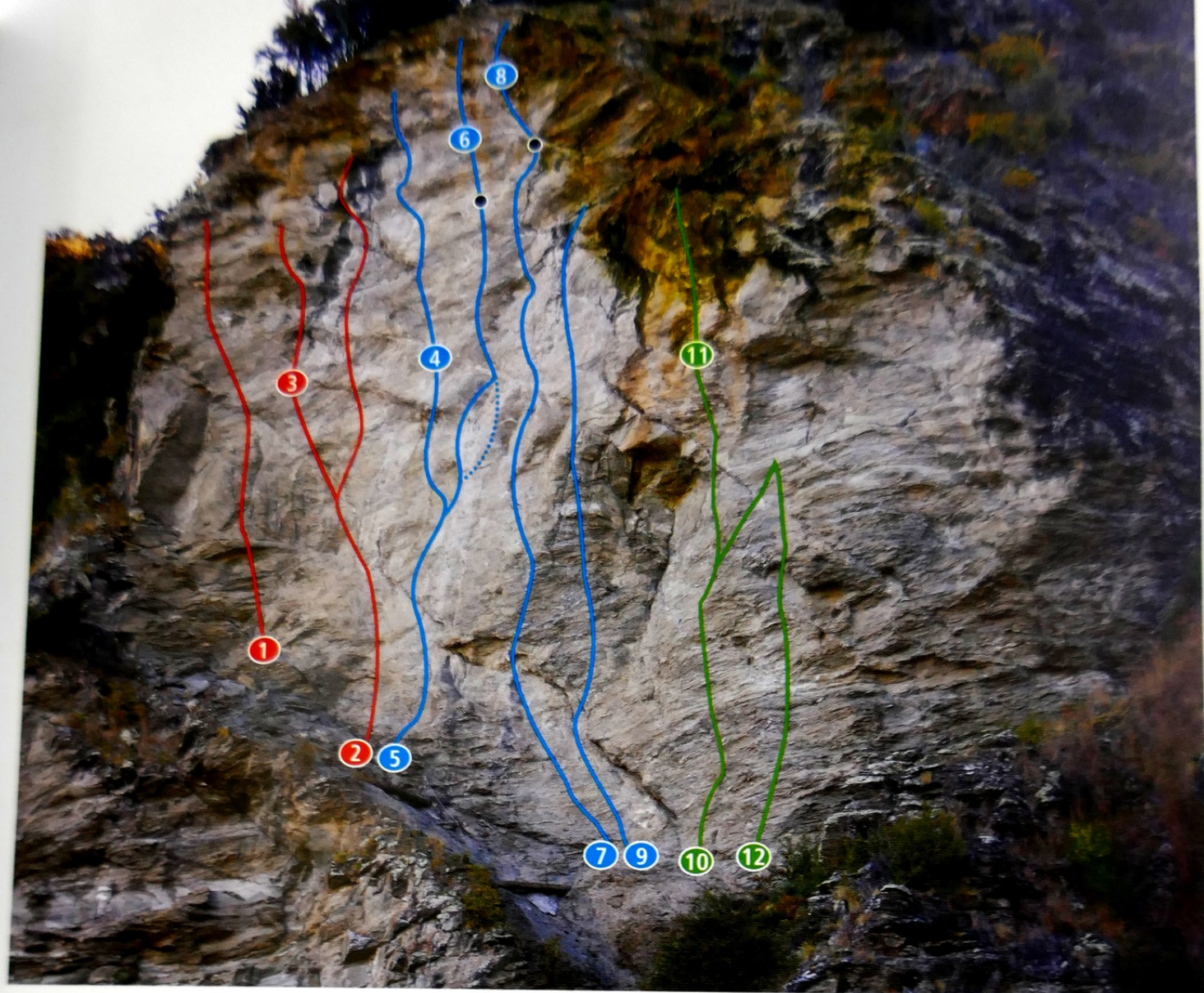
### 4 The Good Bastard

11 🧗 Climb *The Bastard from Gunn Road* to the fifth bolt then left through a bulge. Finding the kneebar rest will help.

30m 27 \*

Jon Sedon, 2006





**5 The Bastard from Gunn Road** 20m 24 ★★

11 Stay left at the fifth bolt for the grade. (Going right is about 23.) As so often, some poor sod does all the hard work and the route gets bagged by his mate.

Equipper: Guy Cotter. FA: Ed Nepia

**6 The Complete Bastard** 30m 27 ★

14 Extension of *The Bastard from Gunn Road* into a fine, feisty finish. Requires a 60m rope to lower.

Jon Sedon, 2006

**7 I May Be Old But At Least I'm Crusty** 20m 22 ★

7 Tricky start up amazing rock, then climb on to easier ground and jugs.

Guy Cotter

**8 Mezzanine** 30m 25 ★

16 Extension of *I May Be Old...*. Carefully manage your pump for this route. Requires a 60m rope to lower.

Bruce Dowrick

**9 Right Bastard** 25m 26 ★

10 Steep start to a hand jam then rest before final hard section.

Bruce Dowrick

**10 Spanking the Kat** 15m 17

6 Balance your way to the shared anchor with *P&M*.

Bryan Moore

**11 Red Gecko** 25m 27 ★

12 Climb *Spanking The Kat* till the last bolt then blast straight up orange headwall.

Bruce Dowrick

**12 Pitchin' & Moanin'** 15m 19

6 Climb gently overhanging, well-featured rock.

Bryan Moore